

IAP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 08 JUN 2006

Lead-through means for cables or pipes

The present invention concerns a lead-through means for cables or pipes and comprises an outer frame having at least one sealing module received in the frame and surrounding a cable or a pipe, which at least one module is meant to fill out the opening of the frame together with at least one expansion unit. By means of the expansion unit the sealing module and possible further adjacent one or more sealing modules may be pressed against the frame and against each other in such a way that sealing is achieved.

Prior art exist in which when cables are to be inserted in e.g. a switch cabinet or through a wall a sealing frame is attached over an actual opening. The cables or the pipes are then lead through the frame. A sealing module is attached around each cable or pipe. The sealing modules fill out the opening of the frame together with said expansion unit, which in turn presses the sealing modules against each other and the frame in such a way that a sealing is achieved. The sealing modules are normally divided in the longitudinal direction to allow the actual cable or pipe to be inserted. To adapt the sealing modules to the different cables or pipes the sealing modules are built up of peelable sheets. Known solutions using this technique are described in the British patent GB 2 186 443 and in the publication WO 01/28057.

One problem with the known technique is that exactly the right number of sheets must be removed to obtain sealing. Should too many sheets be removed the sealing module will fit loosely around the actual cable or pipe and should too few sheets be removed a too extensive gap will be formed between the edges of the module halves and sealing cannot be obtained. In order to obtain the best result a very small gap must namely exist between the halves, in order for the cable or pipe to be clamped and also for the

edges of the module halves to be pressed together when an expansion unit made use of applies pressure.

The object of the present invention is to solve this problem at a lead-through means for cables of the type described above and the distinctive features of the invention are stated in the subsequent claims.

By means of the invention a lead-through means for cables is now achieved, which in an excellent way meets its object and at the same time is inexpensive and easy to produce. With the lead-through means of the invention a completely tight connection to a cable or pipe may be achieved in that the cut, made at the partition of the sealing module into two halves, is placed obliquely in relation to the longitudinal axis of the duct which is to receive the actual cable or pipe. This inclination is chosen in view of the thickness of the peelable sheets. At the adaptation of the module to the actual cable or pipe one module half is turned, thereby giving a conical duct through the sealing module. When this module is placed on a cable or pipe an oblique gap is formed between the module halves and in the adaptation of the module to the cable or pipe the inner sheets of the sealing module are peeled off until the module halves reach each other at the narrow end of the gap and finally the one module half is once again turned 180° and an even gap having the correct measurement is obtained in order to produce the very small gap that is needed between the module halves before they are pressed against each other and the frame by means of an expansion unit.

The invention will be described more closely below by means of a preferred embodiment and with reference to the attached drawing, in which

Fig. 1 shows a view in cross section of a lead-through means for cables or pipes according to the present invention,

Fig. 2 shows a side view of a known sealing module now being used in the lead-through means of Fig. 1,

Fig. 3 shows an enlarged view of the sealing module of Fig. 2, formed of two identically large module halves 5. having inner peelable sheets for the actual cable or pipe,

Fig. 4 shows a side view of a sealing module according to the present invention having an obliquely going cut in relation to the longitudinal axis of the module,

Fig. 5 schematically shows how a sealing module according to Fig. 4 is adapted to an actual cable after peeling off of a requisite number of inner sheets in order to have a narrow gap at the left end; and

Fig. 6 shows here after what the sealing module looks like when the upper half has been turned 180° in relation 15 to the lower half in order to form an evenly going gap between the edges of the module halves.

As shown by the Figs. the invention according to its preferred embodiment comprises a lead-through means for cables consisting of an outer frame 11 with four sealing modules 1 for cables or pipes arranged in said frame, and 20 which modules each consists of two halves 1' and 1'' being compressible by means of an expansion unit 12 placed in the frame 11.

In Figs. 2 and 3 a sealing module known as such is 25 shown having a horizontal cut 2 through it for the insertion of a cable or a pipe 8. At 3 the peelable inner sheets of the sealing module 1 are shown.

In Figs 4-6 it is schematically shown how a sealing module 1 according to the invention looks and in which the 30 dividing cut 2', dividing the module 1 into two halves 1' and 1'', runs obliquely in relation to the longitudinal direction of the sealing module or the longitudinal axis 5 of the duct 4. This dividing cut 2 has an inclination depending on the thickness of the peelable sheets 3. At a placing 35 of a cable 8 with an actual cross section in the sealing

module 1 one module half 1' is turned 180° during a first stage in order to achieve a conical duct through the sealing module 1 at the same time as an oblique gap 6 arises between the module halves 1' and 1''. Then the module 1 is 5 adapted to the actual cable 8 by removal of the peelable sheets 3 until the module halves 1' and 1'' reach each other at the narrow end 6' of the gap 6, as shown in Fig. 5. Thereafter during a second stage e.g. the upper module half 1' is again turned 180° so that an even gap 7 is 10 formed, shown more closely in Fig. 6 with correct measurement. When then the expansion unit 12 is activated, finally a totally adequate seal is established around the actual cable or pipe 8.

In the chosen actual example the sealing frame 11 is 15 rectangular having an expansion unit 12 and close by the same two sealing modules arranged in pairs, which modules are compressible in the frame 11 by means of the expansion unit 12 and this is done first after that respective sealing module 1 is adapted to the actual area of the cables 8, 20 going through the lead-through means, as is seen in Figs. 4-6.

In a not shown embodiment the expansion unit is formed as a gasket surrounding the sealing modules, that is it stretches around these at the same time as the outer 25 side parts of it abuts against the frame and its inner side parts against the sealing modules.